



OFFICE OF MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

CITY OF CHICAGO

August 13, 2019

Matt Chapman
MuckRock.com
76324-08713591@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Mr. Chapman:

On behalf of the City of Chicago Office of the Mayor ("Mayor's Office"), I am responding to your Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request received in our offices on August 6, 2019, in which you state:

A copy of the following records as they relate to Executive Order 2019-2:

- All aldermanic privilege reports*
- All aldermanic privilege report drafts*
- Communications between the Office of the Mayor or any of its staff and each respective aldermanic office or its staff related to this executive order.*
- Documents that provide any form of assistance to aldermanic offices in writing their reports.*
- Any document that provides any sort of indication to an aldermanic office that their reports are late. The text of the executive order does not exist on Chicago's site for some reason, so please find the executive order's text at:*

https://news.wttw.com/sites/default/files/article/file-attachments/Executive%20Order%20No.%202019-2_0.pdf

We have understood your request "aldermanic privilege reports" to mean the Executive Order 2019-2 regarding aldermanic prerogative reports.

In response to your first request for "All aldermanic privilege reports," please note that the aldermanic prerogative reports are available online:

https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/press_room/press_releases/2019/may/ExecutiveOrderAldermanicPrivilege.html

In response to your second request for "All aldermanic privilege report drafts," your request is denied under Section 140/7(1)(f) which protects "[p]reliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record or relevant portion of a

record shall not be exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified by the head of the public body.”

As preliminary drafts are exempt from disclosure, this information is being properly withheld under this section.

In response to your request for “Communications between the Office of the Mayor or any of its staff and each respective aldermanic office or its staff related to this executive order,” please note that your request is burdensome, as it does not sufficiently identify the records you are seeking. Section 3(g) of FOIA provides that “[r]equests calling for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information.” 5 ILCS 140/3(g).

In order to effectively run an email search, the Mayor’s Office needs the following search parameters: (1) the e-mail address(es) or employee name(s) of the account(s) you wish searched; (2) key words you wish to search for; and (3) the timeframe to be searched. Without search parameters, we would need to review all department emails to determine whether any are responsive to your request. Such an undertaking would pose an immense burden on the department.

In response to the last two parts of your request for “Documents that provide any form of assistance to aldermanic offices in writing their reports” and “Any document that provides any sort of indication to an aldermanic office that their reports are late,” the Mayor’s Office has no responsive documents to your request.

It is necessary that your FOIA request be narrowed and clarified. If you would like assistance in narrowing your request, please contact me, and I will assist you. Otherwise, for the reasons provided above, we are unable to respond to your FOIA request as currently drafted.

If you agree to narrow your request, you must submit a revised written request to my attention. We will take no further action or send you any further correspondence unless and until your current request is narrowed in writing. If we do not receive your narrowed request within fourteen calendar days of the date of this letter, your current request will be denied.

In the event that we do not receive a narrowed request and your current FOIA request is therefore denied, you have the right to have a denial reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706, (877) 299-3642. You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court.

Sincerely,
/s/ Anjali Julka
FOIA Officer